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Application Number **09/182,911**

Filing Date **October 30, 1998**

First Named Inventor **Barry G. Wilks**

Group Art Unit **2774**

Examiner Name **J. Lesperance**

Attorney Docket Number **0100.990083 (0100.01269)**

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Technology Center 2600

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- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
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ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

- ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Assignment Papers (for an Application)
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- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation, Change of Correspondence Address
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **RECEIVED**
Applicants: Barry G. Wilks Examiner: J. Lesperance NOV 21 2000
Serial No. 09/182,911 Art Group: 2774
Filing Date: Oct. 30, 1998 Docket No. 0100.9800830(0100.01269) Technology Center 2600

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING MULTIPLE DISPLAYS

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Rosalie Swanson
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Attn: Examiner J. Lesperance

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Dear Sir:

This communication is a response to the final Office Action dated September 22, 2000. In the September 22, 2000 Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Butler et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,018,340) in view of Ishikura (U.S. Patent No. 5,585,821). The Examiner has cited Butler et al. as teaching a method for supporting multiple displays for drawing a surface. The Examiner then compares each of the steps of the claimed invention of the present application as set forth in independent Claim 1, for example, with different sections of the Butler et al. patent. The Examiner states that accordingly Butler et al. teach all the limitations that are recited in Claim 1 with the exception of providing a selected display which exceeds display capabilities of each of the multiple displays.

In the present application, Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent claims. In the previous Office Action Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to include

the limitation that the selected substitute display capabilities exceed the display capabilities of each of the multiple displays.

The present invention is a method and apparatus for supporting multiple displays per a drawing surface. Such process begins by receiving capability parameters for a first display of the multiple displays, where the capability parameters include resolution, pixel depth, and/or refresh rate. Typically, this first display is the primary display associated with the video graphics card. The process then continues by substituting display capabilities for the capability parameters of the first display. The selected display parameters are such that they exceed the display capability parameters of each display, or monitor, coupled to the video graphics card. The process then continues by providing the selected display capabilities to an operating system. The operating system then stores the selected display capabilities in the display register associated with the particular video graphics card. This allows a multitude of displays to be coupled to a single drawing surface without limiting displays having greater display capabilities. It is further explained on page 6 of the Specification that the example computing system 10 has three displays coupled to a single video graphics card, where the first display has a pixel resolution of 640 x 480, the second 720 by 540 and the third, 1024 x 768. The selected display capabilities have a resolution at least as great as 1024 x 768. As such, the selected display capabilities may be determined based on a composite of the display parameters in each of the multiple displays, such as an average, a maximum of the display parameters, or default maximum display parameters. The operating system, when it receives the selected display capabilities, causes them to be stored in a video graphics register associated with the particular video graphics card. Thus, the present invention supports multiple displays per drawing surface. By utilizing selected display capabilities, which exceeds the display parameters of the displays coupled to the video graphics card, the CPU generates the graphics data based on the selected parameters. As such, the videographics card, or controller, can process the graphics data such that each of the displays operates in full screen mode or in a virtual desktop mode.

The Examiner has already admitted that Butler et al. does not anticipate nor render obvious this feature of the present invention. The Examiner has cited Ishikura et al. as allegedly disclosing the above-described feature of the present invention. The Examiner supports this by citing Col. 1, ll. 19-34 of Ishikura et al. In this passage it states that there is a need in the prior art to allow shifting of a cursor from one screen to another screen of a plurality of display apparatus. Using the pointing device, such as a mouse, the operator moves the cursor while watching it on the screen of the display apparatus. This passage occurs in the Background of the Invention of the Ishikura et al patent, and in no way anticipates or renders obvious the claimed invention as set forth in each of the independent claims, and in particular with regards to the claimed feature of substituting selected display capabilities which exceed display capabilities of each of the multiple displays for the capability parameters.

The Ishikura reference is directed to an apparatus and method for screen display offering the advantages of allowing the cursor to move across a plurality of display screens without the cursor getting out of sight of an operator where the multiple display apparatuses are distanced from one another or where the screen size differs from one display apparatus to another. See Col. 1, ll. 36-44. Ishikura further states in Col. 1, ll. 44-58 that, in carrying out the invention, a screen display method displays either a plurality of screens or a plurality of windows on a single screen. The method includes the steps of displaying, either on at least one screen or in at least one window, areas representing either the other screens or the other windows, and causing, when a pointer pointing to a given position either on that one screen or in that one window is used to select any one of the areas therein, the pointer to appear either on another screen or in another window corresponding to a selected area. The Examiner has provided no further support as to how Ishikura et al. discloses, anticipates or renders unpatentable the present invention as set forth in the independent claims of the present application. The Examiner simply concludes that it would have been obvious to utilize the exceeding display

capabilities as taught by Ishikura et al. in a computer system as disclosed by Butler et al. because this will allow the cursor to move across a plurality of displays without the cursor getting out of sight. However, Ishikura et al. obviously provides no teaching with regards to the operating system storing the selected display capabilities in the display register associated with a particular videographics card. Furthermore, there is no teaching that the display parameters of a single display are substituted with all encompassing display parameters that allow multiple displays to be coupled to a single drawing surface without limiting displays having greater display capabilities as described in the Specification on page 3 in lines 23-29 and as is claimed in each of the independent claims of the present invention.


Therefore, there appears to be no basis for combining the references of Butler et al. and Ishikura et al., and even if they were combined, the combination would not result in Applicant's invention as set forth in the independent claims, especially since Ishikura et al. provides no teaching with regards to the feature described above in the present invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103.

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 17, 2000

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